February 6, 2013

Connecticut General Assembly Housing Committee Room 2700, Legislative Office Building Hartford, CT 06106

RE: 8-30g - The Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals Act

TO: The Honorable Dante Bartolomeo, The Honorable Larry Butler Co-Chairs, and members of the Connecticut General Assembly Housing Committee:

As First Selectman of Westport, I am writing to lend my support along with other chief elected officials in the southwestern region to urge your endorsement of several legislative initiatives concerning changes to The Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals Act (8-30g).

Among the bills proposed in your current session there are four which warrant your consideration:

House Bill #5428 – An Act Concerning the Definition of Set-Aside Developments House Bill #5430 – An Act Concerning the Affordability Term for Affordable

Housing Units

House Bill #5501 - An Act Concerning Penalties for the Illegal Sale or Rental of Affordable Housing Units

House Bill #5625 - An Act Exempting Certain Municipalities from the Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals Act

These proposals will address real issues associated with the current law including: 1) assuring that affordable housing, remains affordable in perpetuity; 2) setting the income requirements to insure affordability; 3) imposing stiffer penalties for non-compliance with affordability guidelines; and 4) guiding the location of affordable housing to areas that are compatible with a municipality's housing affordability plan.

The Town of Westport has and continues to make great strides in establishing an environment that is conducive to the establishment of housing opportunities.

Your help in supporting the legislation noted above will aid Westport and towns throughout the state truly achieve the affordable housing goals that 8-30g is designed to foster.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Gordon F. Josefor First Selectman

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cc: Laurence Bradley, Planning & Zoning Director